

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): A printing method for printing a print image on a medium, using a first print mode for printing an output image data that is successively generated due to a reading operation of reading an image in an original, while partly overwriting the output image data onto a memory area as necessary, and a second print mode for printing the whole output image data stored in the memory area by successively reading out the whole output image data from the memory area, comprising:

performing printing on a first sheet in the first print mode according to a first reading operation;

storing, in a memory area, image data that has been generated by reading an image in an original;

performing an area determination for determining which area, in the original, is an area in which a print image exists according to the first reading operation, together with performing printing on a first sheet, based on the image data that has been generated by reading the image in the original;

determining whether or not the whole output image data corresponding to the area that has been determined can be stored in the memory area by estimating the whole output image data

size, according to size of the area determined in the area determination, print resolution, number of bits per pixel, and number of colors, in terms of size, in said memory area based on a result of said area determination; and

in case where said determining yields that if it is determined that the whole output image data can be stored in the memory area terms of size,

storing the whole output image data in the memory area according to a second reading operation that has been re-read for the image in the original, which is limited to the area only, in said memory area, and

performing each printing from the second sheet in the second print mode up to the preset number of sheets from a second sheet based on the image data in said memory area, and

in case where said determining yields that if it is determined that the whole output image data cannot be stored in the memory area terms of size,

performing a reading operation of the original, every time printing is performed, and performing each printing up from the second sheet in the first print mode to the preset number of sheets from the second sheet, using image data from the reading operation.

10 - 15. (canceled).